

dream is now within our reach, an Americas wholly free and democratic and at peace with ourselves and our neighbors.

In the new Americas of the 21st century, democracy is now the rule, rather than the exception. Think of the dramatic changes we've seen in our lifetime. In 1974, the last time the OAS General Assembly met in the United States, fewer than half its members had democratically elected governments. Today, all 34 countries participating in this General Assembly have democratic, constitutional governments.

Only one country in this hemisphere sits outside this society of democratic nations, and one day, the tide of freedom will reach Cuba's shores as well. The great Cuban patriot Jose Marti said it best, "*La libertad no es negociable.*"

The dramatic gains for democracy we have witnessed in our hemisphere must not be taken for granted. Democratic change and free elections are exhilarating events. Yet we know from experience they can be followed by moments of uncertainty. When people risk everything to vote, it can raise expectations that their lives will improve immediately, but history teaches us that the path to a free and prosperous society is long and not always smooth. Each nation must follow its own course, according to its own history. Yet the old and new democracies of the Americas share a common interest in showing every citizen of our hemisphere that freedom brings not just peace; it brings a better life for themselves and their families.

In the new Americas of the 21st century, bringing a better life to our people requires choosing between two competing visions. One offers a vision of hope. It is founded on representative government, integration into the world markets, and a faith in the transformative power of freedom in individual lives. The other seeks to roll back the democratic progress of the past two decades by playing to fear, pitting neighbor against neighbor, and blaming others for their own failures to provide for their peo-

ple. The choices we make will determine which vision will define the Americas our children inherit. We must make wise decisions today to ensure a better tomorrow.

To give our children a better tomorrow, our citizens must see that democracy delivers more than promises. They need to see in their daily lives that their hard work and enterprises are rewarded. They need to see that in a democratic society, people can walk in the streets safely, corruption is punished, and all citizens are equal before the law. And when the people of the Americas see that opportunity and social mobility are real, they will know that in a free and democratic society, the only limit to how far they can go is the size of their dreams.

The United States believes it has an obligation to help build this better tomorrow for all the citizens. Working with our partners in the region, my Government has helped the leaders of this hemisphere meet our goal of delivering treatment to 600,000 HIV sufferers across the region. In 2002, the United States launched the Millennium Challenge Account to help poor nations and to revolutionize the concept of development aid. My administration's approach is based on this commonsense idea that development aid works best in countries that are proving their commitment to govern justly, to invest in their citizens, and to open up their economies. Under this program, aid will go to those who deliver results for their people.

Next week, Honduras will become the second country to sign a Millennium Challenge compact—for a \$215 million program that will help Honduran farmers grow better crops, as well as money to build highways that will open markets for them around the region and the world.

To advance economic development in the Americas, the U.S. Government already makes about \$5 billion in loans and grants to the region throughout [through]^{*} the

^{*} White House correction.

Ex-Im Bank, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, and the Trade and Development Agency. In preparation for the Summit of the Americas later this year in Argentina, my administration will be looking for new ways to prime the real engines of hope in the Americas, its small businesses and private enterprises and entrepreneurs. When people throughout the Americas see their lives improve and opportunity more abundant, their faith in democracy will grow and our hemisphere will be more secure.

In the new Americas of the 21st century, one of the surest ways to make opportunity real for all our citizens is by opening our doors to trade. My Government is pursuing this goal at all levels, at the global level through the Doha round of the World Trade Organization, at the regional level through the Free Trade Area of the Americas, and at the bilateral level with free trade agreements with individual countries like Chile and Mexico and Canada. And the United States Congress is now considering the Central American and Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement, which offers an historic opportunity to bring prosperity to the citizens of our hemisphere who have not known it.

For the young democracies of Central America, CAFTA would bring new investment, and that means good jobs and higher labor standards for their workers. In these nations, wealthier citizens already enjoy access to goods and services produced abroad. By reducing tariffs on U.S. goods, all consumers in these countries will enjoy better goods at lower prices. These lower prices will also give Central American small businesses and farmers and entrepreneurs less costly access to U.S. machinery and equipment, which will make them more competitive and help their economies grow. By bringing economic growth to Central America, CAFTA will contribute to the rise of a vibrant middle class. And that makes us reach—a step closer to our goal, a goal of the Americas where the opportunities

in San Jose, Costa Rica, are as real as they are in San Jose, California.

For U.S. farmers and businesses and workers, CAFTA would expand opportunity by creating a more level playing field for our goods and services. Under existing rules, most of Central America's exports already enter the United States duty free, but U.S. exports still face hefty tariffs. By passing CAFTA, the United States would open up a market of 44 million consumers for our farmers and small-business people. CAFTA will replace a system that is often arbitrary with one that is fair and transparent and based on common rules.

For the Western Hemisphere, CAFTA would continue to advance the stability and security that come from freedom. An Americas linked by trade is less likely to be divided by resentment and false ideologies. An Americas where all our people live in prosperity will be more peaceful. And an Americas whose countries have reduced the barriers to trade among ourselves will be a more competitive region in a global economy.

CAFTA is more than just a trade agreement; it is a signal of the U.S. commitment to democracy and prosperity for our neighbors, and I urge the United States Congress to pass it.

In the last half-century, the nations of the Americas have overcome enormous challenges, colonialism and communism and military dictatorship. At the start of this new century, these divisions have fallen away, and now we have it within our means to eliminate the scourge of poverty from our hemisphere. In this room, we still represent many different countries with different traditions and different mother tongues, but today we can say with pride that we all speak the common language of liberty. And by making the blessings of freedom real in our hemisphere, we will set a shining example for the rest of the world.

Thank you for letting me come by. *Que Dios los bendiga*. May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:50 a.m. at the Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who introduced the President; Secretary General Jose Miguel Insulza and As-

sistant Secretary General Luigi R. Einaudi of the Organization of American States; and Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida and his wife, Columba. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks at a Reception for Black Music Month June 6, 2005

Thank you all. Welcome to the White House. Laura and I are honored to have some of the country's finest entertainers with us tonight. We're here to celebrate Black Music Month, and we thank you all for coming.

For decades, Presidents have taken pride in welcoming black musicians to play in this house, and the performers seem to enjoy this place when they come. [*Laughter*] One of the greatest black musicians to visit the White House was Dizzy Gillespie. He liked it so much here he became a write-in candidate for President in 1964. [*Laughter*] His platform included jazz in schools and Miles Davis as the head of the CIA. [*Laughter*] I'm not making that up. [*Laughter*]

Teresa, thank you very much for emceeing this event. I really thank our entertainers. You were great. Thank you for filling this house—[*applause*]. I want to thank the members of my Cabinet who have joined us. I appreciate Senator George Allen from Virginia and Congressman Bobby Scott from Virginia for joining us as well. A lot of distinguished Americans here, and we're really glad you're here. Welcome.

Each June, we honor the great contributions that black musicians have made to America and to the world. The music of African American artists has enhanced our lives and created some of the Nation's most treasured art forms, and that's why we celebrate this month. From gospel music to

blues to jazz to rock and roll, the songs of America's black musicians have defined their times and have enriched our culture.

It's hard to imagine America without the genius of Louis Armstrong and Dizzy Gillespie, the voices of Lena Horne and Diana Ross and Ella Fitzgerald and so many others. We just can't envision our country without those voices. Their achievements remind us that our diversity makes our country strong.

The artists we celebrate this month use music to lift the human spirit. Black music in America began with the work songs and spirituals of people held in slavery. Their songs bore witness to cruelty and earthly injustice, and yet in them, we hear the voice of faith lifted up to God. That music could have come only from the unique experience of African Americans, yet it speaks a language that all Americans understand.

The Psalms tell us to "make a joyful noise unto the Lord." You lived up to the Psalms. [*Laughter*] Smokie, Mary Mary, and Donnie understand that part of the Gospel. [*Laughter*] These gospel artists have found a modern audience for a timeless music, and they have never forgot their purpose. Pastor Donnie likes to say, "If you ever want to get anybody in touch with God, sing to them." He has a whole congregation on Long Island saying amen when he sings, kind of like he had in the White House. [*Laughter*]

At its best, music speaks to every heart, and some moving performances by black

musicians have happened right here at the White House. You just witnessed one. In 1882, a black choir called the Fisk Jubilee Singers moved President Arthur to tears with their performance of "Safe in the Arms of Jesus." Sissieretta Jones, the daughter of a slave, sang opera here in the White House for President Benjamin Harrison. In 1939, Marian Anderson performed "Ave Maria" for Franklin Roosevelt right here in this room. President Roosevelt said that "music can make us all more vividly aware of the common humanity which is ours." Let history record, you had me jumping in my seat. *[Laughter]*

Throughout our history, African American artists have created music with the power to change hearts and reshape our national conscience. The songs of black musicians heralded social change. Music like jazz and blues communicated across racial barriers. That music began in America's country churches and urban clubs of Chicago, New Orleans, and Harlem. Today, it is cherished here at home and around the world.

And our black musicians continue to inspire us and bring us together. Across the country, American cities and towns will cel-

ebate Black Music Month with their own festivals. We're just a small part of a larger celebration. From the Chicago Blues Festival to the B.B. King Homecoming Festival in Mississippi to the JVC Jazz Festival in New York City, people of all races and ages and creeds will come together on warm June nights to celebrate these musicians and their music.

Today, African American artists have continued to set standards of originality and creativity. The incredible talents of black musicians keep lifting their art and lifting the souls of America. We heard that talent today. We're grateful to all the black musicians who have brought such beauty and pride to our country, and we're grateful to you all.

May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:37 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Teresa Hairston, founder and publisher, Gospel Today; and entertainers Smokie Norful, Mary Mary, and Rev. Donnie McClurkin. The Black Music Month proclamation of June 1 is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

The President's News Conference With Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom

June 7, 2005

President Bush. Thank you all. Good afternoon. Laura and I are really honored to welcome the Prime Minister and Cherie back to the White House. Welcome, Tony, glad you're here. Congratulations on your great victory. It was a landmark victory, and I'm really thrilled to be able to work with you to spread freedom and peace over the next years.

Our alliance with Great Britain is strong, and it's essential to peace and security. Together our two nations worked to liberate Europe from fascism. Together we de-

fended freedom during the cold war. Today, we're standing together again to fight the war on terror, to secure democracy and freedom in Iraq and Afghanistan and the broader Middle East, and to prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction. As we face the challenges and opportunities of a new century, our alliance is stronger than ever.

Prime Minister Blair and I share a common vision of a world that is free, prosperous, and at peace. When men and women are free to choose their own